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Upcoming Fire Season

According to fire officials, we have the potential to have devastating fires this year and we must be ever alert during the upcoming fire season. Several contributing factors make the potential all the more alarming. There are dozens of canyons filled with vegetation that are beyond the reach of fire engines. Fires in canyons can be very destructive because fires run uphill much faster. The land is extremely parched due to six years of drought conditions. And now the brush and trees burned by the recent firestorms are growing back. Adding to the mix is the fact that most of what is growing back in the areas hit by fires are grasses. Once they die and dry out, grass fires can move very quickly and can be difficult to control. Homes on the edges of open space or greenbelts throughout the area impacts our ability to fight fires. The City of San Diego alone has 213 linear miles of canyon rims along residential areas. I think one of the most important steps we can take is to be proactive in brush management. I urge everyone to comply with City laws requiring brush to be cleared around homes and buildings. Some residents are lulled into a false sense of security thinking their home is located in a safe area. For example, had the winds changed direction in the Cedar fire canyon areas along I-805 and Hwy-52 it could easily have burned straight through San Clemente Canyon, up over Mount Soledad and straight out to the Pacific Ocean.

In case you missed information about the [City's Brush Management brochure in my last eNewsletter, you can click here](#). You can also visit my website at JimMadaffer.com for more information on fire and fire safety issues.

Tierrasanta Roof Buyers Consortium

In the aftermath of the fires, Tierrasanta resident Eric Germain has formed the Tierrasanta Roof Buyers Consortium as one more step for folks to help each other and I support his efforts. They are holding a meeting about replacing wood shake roofs and I want to help them get the word out. Nearly two dozen residents have already joined the Tierrasanta Roof Buyers Consortium. Their goal is to collectively select a high-quality roofer, negotiate a volume discount with the roofer, and replace their roofs with an approved Grade A material before the next fire season. Their next meeting will take place on Saturday, March 13th at 10 a.m. in Room 2 of the Tierrasanta Recreation Center. To find out more about the Consortium please contact Eric Germain at 858-279-7397

or by e-mail at WoodShakeRoofs@yahoo.com.

Also, to find out the latest on roof policy and rebuilding after the Cedar Fire please click on this link to the City's Development Services website.

Happenings in the District



There are quite a few community events taking place this spring you'll want know about. The annual Rolando Street Fair takes place on Sunday March 28 starting at 10am. They have many outstanding booths with crafts and other items, in addition to great food, music and lots of fun for all ages.

The annual Allied Gardens SpringFest Parade takes place on April 24 and features many booths and displays. The theme this year is Allied Gardens' 50th Anniversary and the SpringFest kicks off a year long celebration of the community's 50th Anniversary booths open at 10am and the parade begins at 11am. A "Back to the 50's" Sock Hop is planned at 3pm. The 18th annual Tierrafest takes place on May 15 in Tierrasanta and features activities all day including the Patriots Parade (10am) and the Spaghetti Dinner beginning at 4pm followed by a spectacular fireworks display.



We're very excited about construction beginning March 15th for the new San Carlos Recreation Center Play Area. It should be completed sometime in May.



Modernizing play areas, or tot lots as they used to be called, has been one of my community priorities. Over the past couple years we've finished building contemporary play areas at Roadrunner Park, Tierrasanta Community Park, Colina Del Sol Park and Princess Del Cerro Park.

Beginning this month, the City's Environmental Services Department will begin cleaning up both sides of College

Avenue between Del Cerro Boulevard and I-8 on a monthly basis. This heavily traveled street is frequently littered and the cleanup will go a long way in complementing our neighborhood beautification project. We recently installed a new community entrance sign and completed new landscaped medians.

New ground cover and shrubs have been planted in the College Avenue Median between Del Cerro Boulevard and I-8 as well as in the Del Cerro Boulevard Median between College Avenue and Madra Avenue.

Spring Sports

Spring time means the beginning of youth sports. The Navajo Girls Softball League had their opening day on February 7th. The San Carlos Little League, Tierrasanta Little League and the Tierra Canyon Girl's Softball League's opening day was February 28th. The opening day for the Mission Trails Little League, Allied Gardens Little League and Chollas Lake Little League was on March 6th.



The fields were full of energetic young people playing softball as their families and friends cheered them on. One of the fun aspects of representing District 7 is participating in the opening day celebrations. It is gratifying to see our youth enrolled in organized sports and these leagues represent thousands of children involved with youth sports. They typically play Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m. and all day Saturday at their respective fields. I encourage you to support these local efforts.

Speaking of Little Leagues, it is going to be a great season for the Allied Gardens Little League no matter the score. A major problem has been resolved and KUSI's Michael Turko deserves much credit. Each year their ball fields would flood and an inadequate drainage ditch didn't do the job. That is where Turko comes in. He helped us in working with a local developer and the Little League to build a new drainage ditch. The ditch has been built and now it is a matter of dotting "i"s and crossing "t"s and for the Little League to sign off on the project. It is an example of how partnerships and a sense of commitment to the community go a long way towards fixing problems.

The Future of Commercial Development

On Thursday, March 25th the City Of San Diego's Planning Department is holding a workshop called Dollars and Sense: The Future of Commercial Development in San Diego. The meeting takes place from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. in the Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club near the Aerospace Museum in

Balboa Park. Topics include strategies to better balance commercial interests with residential, industrial and environmental needs. It is the fifth workshop in the From Controversy to Solution series. You are invited to attend and add your perspective and suggestions for what the City can do to promote sound development decisions for our future. [For more information click on this link.](#)

A few words about City Council "Closed Session" meetings

Over the past 10 years or so, there have been a number of controversial City matters the public was very interested to know more about but were handled by the City Council in closed session instead.

This past week I was in Washington DC for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). While I was there, I learned two of my colleagues formally questioned the need for so many items being discussed in closed session. I applaud Councilmembers Toni Atkins and Donna Frye for bringing this issue forward.

Over the years, I have long associated the many closed sessions of the Council where Councilmembers are treated like mushrooms – in other words, Councilmembers are often kept in the dark about important issues. Often, we don't have the benefit of hearing input from the public on matters discussed in closed session.

The Brown Act stipulates that the Council can only meet in closed session for very specific reasons detailed in the law. It's important for the public and the Council to hear a review of these specific reasons and for the public to understand when the Council must in fact meet in closed session. Certainly I agree for the need for limited closed sessions, but I also feel the topics discussed in closed session should be reserved for those special instances only. I believe when closed sessions are used for the most important of issues will the public gain greater confidence in what must be discussed behind closed doors – namely to protect your tax dollars.

I look forward to a discussion on this matter and a review of the reasons for closed sessions. It will be heard during the City Council meeting this Monday March 19 at 2pm. You are invited to participate at the meeting or click on this link and email me your thoughts. Thanks, Jim.

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